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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 22, 1944

To: Norman Leon Gold, Chief, Civilian Food Requirements Branch

From: J. Pervis Milnor, Acting Chief, Distribution Division
Civilian Food Requirements Branch

Subject: Monthly Food Reports by Areas, March 1944

This month all but the Midwest Region sent in area reports on the new form showing both wholesale stocks and retail movements. Comparisons can thus be made between regions and areas, although the area supervisors responsible for the reports have obviously differed in the number and variety of contacts they made in securing the information as well as in their interpretations of situations. Several areas in the Northeast and Western Regions, for example, have reported general shortages of beef and veal. In view of the general supply situation, it is felt that these complaints reflect a shortage of the most desirable cuts rather than an actual meat shortage.

Throughout the country the food situation is encouraging this month. The chief shortages complained of are canned fruit, canned fish, cheese, soap and soap powders, apples and onions. Meats, vegetables (canned, frozen and fresh), fats and oils and citrus products are in generally satisfactory supply. Butter is still short except in the Midwest and West, but the situation is better than it has been. Three regions report a surplus of shell eggs.

The attached summary shows the situation by major commodities in important and representative cities and towns of the United States. Only commodities which differ from the national supply situation are mentioned on the assumption that we can relieve only cases where one area is suffering unduly in relation to the rest of the country, but not cases of national shortage or surplus.

Items are grouped in four columns as explained below, the most important being column three, "Unbalanced Short." These are the items which are generally adequate in the country but short in various localities; therefore, they are the items most subject to correction. There are many different kinds of problems involved depending on the item. These reports cannot be expected to show up such problems; they must be analyzed separately. For example, it cannot be discovered whether the shortage of evaporated milk in the South and Southwest is a price problem, a shipping problem, or just what is involved. But we do know that certain areas are suffering shortages. The same is true of poultry and various other commodities. The best that this report can do is show up problem areas and problem commodities. For that reason it has been put in its present form emphasizing variations from the national picture by selected representative areas. It was hoped to have a more complete sample of areas, but the reporting system is not yet completely set up and not all areas have been identified.

Suggestions as to form or content of this monthly report from anyone who may find it of value will be greatly appreciated.

Part I - The National Situation*

A. Foods that are short in all regions reporting:

Canned pineapple and juice	Soaps and soap powders
Canned fish	Apples
Cheese	Onions

B. Foods that are short in a majority of the regions:

All other canned fruit	Frozen fruits
Tomato catsup	Butter
Baby foods	

C. Foods that are adequate in a majority of the regions, but short in one or two ("Unbalanced"):

Canned soups	Canned meats
Raisins and currants	Evaporated milk
Fruit spreads	Syrups
Frozen lima beans	Fluid milk
Beef	Poultry
Veal	Rice
Corn grits	

D. Foods that are adequate in all regions reporting:

Grapefruit juice	Eggs
Canned vegetables (except tomato catsup)	Shortening
Citrus marmalade	Salad oils
Other frozen vegetables	Eggs
Dried prunes	Corn meal
Dry beans	Macaroni and other paste products
Lamb	Soy flour and flakes
Pork	Citrus fruit
Ready-to-eat meats	Potatoes
Margarine	Other vegetables

Part II - Local Summaries

	<u>Adequate (1)</u>	<u>Short (2)</u>	<u>Unbalanced Short (3)</u>	<u>Relative abundance (4)</u>
Portland, Maine	Canned pineapple Baby Food	Canned asparagus Canned Spinach	Beef Veal	

*These lists are compiled from reports of wholesale stocks from four regions and an "Inadequate-Satisfactory-Excessive" breakdown from the Midwest Region.